



**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

DOT-OST

Assistant Secretary

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

May 6, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
210 Walnut Street  
733 Federal Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Dear Senator Harkin:

Thank you for your letter of March 9 regarding essential air service (EAS) at Fort Dodge and Mason City, Iowa.

We are pleased to inform you that by Order 2009-4-20, issued April 27, 2009, the Department selected Mesaba Aviation, Inc. d/b/a Delta Connection, to continue providing EAS at Fort Dodge and Mason City, as well as Thief River Falls, MN, for a new two-year period through May 31, 2011. I hope you find this information helpful.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and this response in Docket DOT-OST-2001-10682 and Docket DOT-OST-2001-10684 as a contact outside the record of this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Christa Fornarotto  
Acting Assistant Secretary for  
Aviation and International Affairs

X1-09-0422-001

17-Mar-09

2009 Senate Report - Governmental Affairs Correspondence  
Control Sheet (I-1) W85-328

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**Control Number:** 2009 — 1059  
**Date DOT Received:** 3/17/2009  
**Date DOT Entered:** 3/17/2009  
**Member's Date:** 3/9/2009  
**Member Last Name:** Harkin  
**Member First Name:** Tom  
**Member Organization:** United States Senator  
**Address1:** 210 Walnut Street  
**Address2:** 733 Federal Building  
**City:** Des Moines  
**State:** IA  
**Zip:** 50309  
**Constituent File Name:**  
**Constituent Date:**  
**Action Office:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Aviation and  
International Affairs  
**Subject:** expressing your support for a grant application  
submitted by Mesaba Aviation, Inc. for Essential Air  
Service  
**Action Office Code:** X-1  
**Due Date:** 4 /8 /2009  
**Member Contact:**  
**Pending:** Yes  
**Member Contact Phone:** (515) 284-4574  
**Closed Date:**  
**Remarks:**  
**Direct Reply/Comeback Copy:** Yes  
**Congressional Affairs Contact** Maria Harrison at (202) 366-4573

TOM HARKIN  
IOWA

2009-1059  
United States Senate

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COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE

APPROPRIATIONS

HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SMALL BUSINESS

March 9, 2009

Ms. Nicole Nason  
Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs  
US Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street SW, Room 10408  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Nason:

I am writing to express my support for a grant application submitted by Mesaba Aviation, Inc. for Essential Air Service (EAS) funding that will allow them to continue service to Mason City and Fort Dodge, Iowa.

The EAS funding for this proposal will help insure quality air service to North Central Iowa for the next two years. Residents and businesses in the region appreciate and understand the critical importance of continued air service to the economic well being of the area as well as the important linkage it provides to the rest of the country and world.

I hope you will give every consideration to this proposal. Please direct any correspondence regarding this matter to my grants office in Des Moines. Thank you for this opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely,

*Tom Harkin*

Tom Harkin  
United States Senator

515) 284-1574  
TH/jnm

*John Morland*